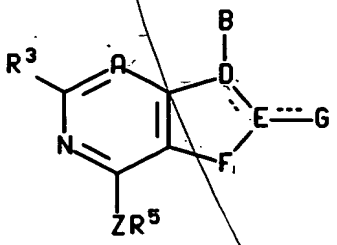
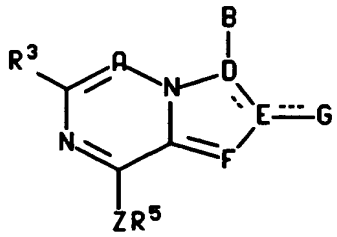
CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula

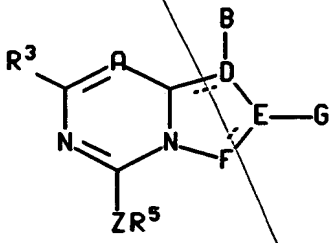


I



II

or



III

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

the dashed lines represent optional double bonds;

A is nitrogen or CR^7;

B is $-NR^1R^2$, $-CR^1R^2R^{10}$, $-C(=CR^2R^{11})R^1$, $-NHCR^1R^2R^{10}$, $-OCR^1R^2R^{10}$, $-SCR^1R^2R^{10}$, $-CR^2R^{10}NHR^1$, $-CR^2R^{10}OR^1$, $-CR^2R^{10}SR^1$ or $-COR^2$;

D is nitrogen and is single bonded to all atoms to which it is attached, or D is carbon and is either double bonded to E in formulas I and II or double bonded to the

adjacent carbon atom common to both fused rings in formula III, or D is CH and is single bonded to E in formulas I and II;

E is nitrogen, CH or carbon;

F is oxygen, sulfur, CHR^4 or NR^4 when it is single bonded to E and F is nitrogen or CR^4 when it is double bonded to E;

G, when single bonded to E, is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), NH_2, -NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl) or -N(C_1-C_2 alkyl)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), wherein each of the C_1-C_4 alkyl groups of G may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy, -O(C_1-C_2 alkyl) or fluoro group; G, when double bonded to E, is oxygen, sulfur or NH; and G, when E is nitrogen and double bonded to D or F, is absent;

R^1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents R^8 independently selected from hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, CF_3, -C(=O)0-(C_1-C_4)alkyl, -OC(=O)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -NHCO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CONH(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CON(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CN, $-NO_2$, -SO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), $-SO_2$(C_1-C_4 alkyl), $-SO_2$NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl) and $-SO_2$N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), wherein each of the C_1-C_4 alkyl groups in the foregoing R^1 groups may optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds;

R^2 is C_1-C_{12} alkyl which may optionally contain from one to three double or triple bonds, aryl or (C_1-C_4 alkylene)aryl, wherein said aryl and the aryl moiety of said (C_1-C_4 alkylene)aryl is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrrolopyridyl, oxazolyl and benzoxazolyl; C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl or (C_1-C_6 alkylene)(C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl), wherein one or two of the carbon atoms of said cycloalkyl and the 5 to 8 membered cycloalkyl moieties of said (C_1-C_6 alkylene)(C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl) may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ^2 wherein Z^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, benzyl and C_1-C_4 alkanoyl, and wherein each of the foregoing R^2 groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro, hydroxy and C_1-C_4 alkyl, or with one substituent selected from bromo, iodo, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, -OC(=O)(C_1-C_6 alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2

alkyl), -S(C_1-C_6 alkyl), amino, -NH(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_2 alkyl)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)-CO-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -NHCO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CONH(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CON(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -SH, -CN, -NO_2, -SO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl) and -SO_2N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl);

-NR^1R^2 or $CR^1R^2R^{10}$ may form a saturated 3 to 8 membered carbocyclic ring which may optionally contain from one to three double bonds and wherein one or two of the ring carbon atoms of such 5 to 8 membered rings may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ^3 wherein Z^3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, benzyl or C_1-C_4 alkanoyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, -O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), chloro, fluoro, bromo, iodo, -CN, -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl) or -SO_2(C_1-C_4 alkyl) wherein each of the (C_1-C_4 alkyl) moieties in the foregoing R^3 groups may optionally be substituted with one substituent R^9 selected from hydroxy, fluoro and (C_1-C_2 alkoxy);

each R^4 is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1-C_6 alkyl), fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, -O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2(C_1-C_4)alkyl, -CO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)H or -C(=O)O(C_1-C_4alkyl), wherein each of the (C_1-C_6 alkyl) and (C_1-C_4 alkyl) moieties in the foregoing R^4 groups may optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds and may optionally be substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from hydroxy, amino, C_1-C_3 alkoxy, dimethylamino, methylamino, ethylamino, -NHC(=O)CH_3, fluoro, chloro, C_1-C_3 thioalkyl, -CN, -COOH, -C(=O)O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)(C_1-C_4 alkyl) and -NO_2;

R^5 is phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indolyl, benzoxazolyl or C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl wherein one or two of the carbon atoms of said cycloalkyl rings that contain at least 5 ring members may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ^4 wherein Z^4 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl or benzyl; and wherein each of the foregoing R^5 groups is substituted with from one to four substituents R^{12} wherein one to three of said substituents may be selected, independently, from chloro, C_1-C_6 alkyl and -O(C_1-C_6 alkyl) and one of said substituents may be selected from bromo, iodo, formyl, -CN,

$-CF_3$, $-NO_2$, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), $-N(C_1-C_2$ alkyl)$(C_1-C_6$ alkyl), $-C(=O)O(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), $-C(=O)(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), $-COOH$, $-SO_2NH(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), $-SO_2N(C_1-C_2$ alkyl)$(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), $-SO_2NH_2$, $-NHSO_2(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), $-S(C_1-C_6$ alkyl) and $-SO_2(C_1-C_6$ alkyl), and wherein each of the C_1-C_4 alkyl and C_1-C_6 alkyl moieties in the foregoing R^5 groups may optionally be substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from fluoro, hydroxy, amino, methylamino, dimethylamino and acetyl;

R^7 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, halo, cyano, hydroxy, $-O(C_1-C_4$ alkyl) $-C(=O)(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), $-C(=O)O(C_1-C_4$alkyl), $-OCF_3$, $-CF_3$, $-CH_2OH$, $-CH_2O(C_1-C_4$ alkyl);

R^{10} is hydrogen, hydroxy, methoxy or fluoro;

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

Z is NH, oxygen, sulfur, $-N(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), $-NC(=O)(C_1-C_2$ alkyl), $NC(=O)O(C_1-C_2$alkyl) or $CR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are independently selected from hydrogen, trifluoromethyl and methyl with the exception that one of R^{13} and R^{14}can be cyano;

with the proviso that: (a) in the five membered rings of structures I, II and III, there can not be two double bonds adjacent to each other; and (b) when R^4 is attached to nitrogen, it is not halo, cyano or nitro;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such compound.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein: R^1 is C_1-C_6 alkyl, which may optionally be substituted with one hydroxy, fluoro, CF_3, or C_1-C_4 alkoxy group and may optionally contain one double or triple bond; and R^2 is benzyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, which may optionally contain one double or triple bond, wherein said C_1-C_6 alkyl and the phenyl moiety of said benzyl may optionally be substituted with one fluoro, CF_3, C_1-C_2 alkyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy or chloro group.

3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein: R^3 is methyl, ethyl, chloro or methoxy; R^4 is methyl, ethyl or trifluoromethyl; G is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, or E=G is C=O, C=S; R^5 is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl which is substituted with more than two substituents independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, $-O(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), $(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)-O-$(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), CF_3, OCF_3, $-CHO$, $(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)-OH, CN, Cl, F, Br, I and NO_2, wherein each of the foregoing (C_1-C_4) alkyl groups may optionally contain one double or triple bond.

4. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is N, CH or CCH_3 which may optionally be substituted by fluoro, chloro, CF_3, C_1-C_4 alkyl or C_1-C_4 alkoxy.

5. A compound according to claim 1 having the formula I.

6. A compound according to claim 1 having the formula II.

7. A compound according to claim 1 having the formula III.

8. A compound according to claim 1 wherein F is NR^4.

9. A compound according to claim 1 wherein F is CHR^4.

10. A compound according to claim 1 wherein F is nitrogen and is double bonded to E.

11. A compound according to claim 1 wherein F is sulfur.

12. A compound according to claim 1 wherein E is carbon.

13. A compound according to claim 1 wherein E is nitrogen.

14. A compound according to claim 1 wherein E is NR^{25} and R^{25} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl or $-CF_3$.

15. A compound according to claim 1 that is selected from:

2,5,6-trimethyl-7-(1-propylbutyl)-4-(2,4,6-trimethylphenoxy)-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine;

1-(1-ethylpropyl)-6-methyl-4-(2,4,6-trimethylphenylamino)-1,3-dihydro-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-one;

9-(1-ethylpropyl)-2-methyl-6-(2,4,6-trimethylphenylamino)-7,9-dihydro-purin-8-one;

1-(1-ethylpropyl)-6-methyl-4-(2,4,6-trimethylphenoxy)-1,3-dihydro-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-one;

1-(1-ethylpropyl)-6-methyl-4-(2,4,6-trimethylphenoxy)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;

1-(1-ethylpropyl)-3,6-dimethyl-4-(2,4,6-trimethylphenoxy)-1,3-dihydro-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-one; and

1-(1-ethylpropyl)-3,6-dimethyl-4-(2,4,6-trimethylphenylamino)-1,3-dihydro-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-one.

16. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of (a) a disorder the treatment of which can be effected or facilitated by antagonizing CRF, including but

not limited to disorders induced or facilitated by CRF, or (b) a disorder selected from inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, pain, asthma, psoriasis and allergies; generalized anxiety disorder; panic; phobias; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; hypertension; tachycardia; congestive heart failure; sleep disorders induced by stress; pain perception such as fibromyalgia; mood disorders such as depression, including major depression, single episode depression, recurrent depression, child abuse induced depression, and postpartum depression; dysthemia; bipolar disorders; cyclothymia; fatigue syndrome; stress-induced headache; cancer; irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease; spastic colon; human immunodeficiency virus infections; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease; gastrointestinal diseases; eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa; hemorrhagic stress; chemical dependencies and addictions; drug and alcohol withdrawal symptoms; ulcers; stress-induced psychotic episodes; euthyroid sick syndrome; syndrome of inappropriate antidiarrhetic hormone; obesity; infertility; head traumas; spinal cord trauma; ischemic neuronal damage; excitotoxic neuronal damage; epilepsy; stroke; immune dysfunctions including stress induced immune dysfunctions; muscular spasms; urinary incontinence; senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type; multiinfarct dementia; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; psychosocial dwarfism; and hypoglycemia in a mammal, comprising an amount of a compound according to claim 1 that is effective in the treatment of such disorder, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. A method for the treatment of (a) a disorder the treatment of which can be effected or facilitated by antagonizing CRF, including but not limited to disorders induced or facilitated by CRF, or (b) a disorder selected from inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, pain, asthma, psoriasis and allergies; generalized anxiety disorder; panic; phobias; obsessive-compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; hypertension; tachycardia; congestive heart failure; sleep disorders induced by stress; pain perception such as fibromyalgia; mood disorders such as depression, including major depression, single episode depression, recurrent depression, child abuse induced depression, and postpartum depression; dysthemia; bipolar disorders; cyclothymia; fatigue syndrome; stress-induced headache; cancer;

irritable bowel syndrome; Crohn's disease; spastic colon; human immunodeficiency virus infections; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease; gastrointestinal disorders; eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa; hemorrhagic stress; stress-induced psychotic episodes; euthyroid sick syndrome; syndrome of inappropriate antidiarrhetic hormone; obesity; infertility; head traumas; spinal cord trauma; ischemic neuronal damage; excitotoxic neuronal damage; epilepsy; stroke; ulcers; immune dysfunctions including stress induced immune dysfunctions; muscular spasms; urinary incontinence; senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type; multiinfarct dementia; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; chemical dependencies and addictions; drug and alcohol withdrawal symptoms; psychosocial dwarfism; and hypoglycemia in a mammal, comprising administering to a subject in need of said treatment an amount of a compound according to claim 1, that is effective in treating such disorder.

cancel C2

add C4